

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action, Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Straub *et al.* (US 6,343,899), in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Straub *et al.* in view of AAPA and further in view of Horn *et al.* (US 6,012,880).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3 therein and to further set forth that "the axially slidable conical portion causes adjustment of radial positions of the two diametrically opposed cutting bits on each of said bar and said counter-bar. Method claim 5 has been amended to more clearly set forth the method steps.

Claim 1 as amended specifically call for the axially slidable conical portion causing adjustment of the two diametrically opposed cutting bits on each of said bar and said counter-bar. The patent to Straub *et al.*, the primary reference relied upon by the Examiner, does not teach the provision of two diametrically opposed cutting bits on each bar, as acknowledged by the Examiner. Furthermore, Straub *et al.* uses two inner rotating cams to control radial adjustment. Horn *et al.*, shows two diametrically opposed bits, but only one of them is provided with the possibility of radial adjustment. Therefore no reference anticipates the use of a common control member in the form of a conical portion to adjust the radial position of the two diametrically opposed cutting bits on each of said bar and counter-bar.

The foregoing arguments also apply with respect to method claims 5 and 6.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/667,363
Attorney Docket Q77674

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments it is submitted that claims 1 and 4-6 inclusive are patentable over the references relied upon in the last Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these claims be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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